(c) if so, what is the status and whether there have been any recovery from these officials

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) How much total money has been paid by Government to recoup the deficit in Unit-64 scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Certain investment decisions concerning US-64 were examined by the internal Vigilance Cell as recommended by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). CBI conducted the enquiry into purchase of some equity shares by erstwhile Unit Trust of India (UTI) and has filed charge sheet in special court for CBI cases against the concerned official. Civil suit has been filed by the Administrator of Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India (SUUTI) and UTI Trustee Company Pvt. Ltd. (UTI Mutual Fund) against concerned ex-officials for claiming damages/compensation for the loss suffered by erstwhile UTI in respect of investment in some shares.

(e) Rs. 2393 crore was given by Government for meeting the shortfalls between assured repurchase prices and NAV of US-64.

Extension of area-based tax concessions

784. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether area based tax concessions have been extended up to March 2010 for States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, whether Government would agree to extend the same benefits to the six districts of North Bengal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has presently no proposal to extend such benefits to the six districts of North Bengal region.

(c) The Government is not in favour of area based exemptions, as these create economic distortions affecting the economic viability of units located in non-exempted areas and result in shifting of industry from non-exempted to exempted areas. Such exemptions also lead to shrinkage of tax base and adversely affect buoyancy in revenue collections, apart from breaking the CENVAT chain. Durability of such investments beyond the exemption period is also doubtful.

Import duty on purified Terephthalic Acid and Paraxylene

785. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a request from the State Government of West Bengal to consider maintaining a spread of 10% per cent rates of import duty on Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) and Paraxylene; and

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government has not received any request from the State